

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **10/566,273**
Response filed August 7, 2009
Reply to OA dated June 23, 2009

REMARKS:

After entry of the amendments set forth herein, claims 4 and 15 shall be pending. Claims 4 and 15 have been amended herein. Claims 1-3, 5-14, and 16 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as to their subject matter.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 4 and 15 set forth allowable subject matter.

1. The Examiner has objected to the drawings.

The Examiner has suggested that the mesh member of claims 14 and 15 must be shown in conjunction with the plurality of plates or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s).

Claim 15, as amended, sets forth a combination of features including a mesh member. Claim 15, as amended, does not include this explicit text: "a plurality of plates."

Claim 14 has been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer as to its subject matter.

Accordingly, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that this objection to the drawings should be withdrawn.

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2. The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 6, 10, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,554,015 (**Dreiman '015**) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,937,817 (**Schanz '817**) and U.S. Patent No. 5,582,271 (**Mielo '271**).

Claims 1, 3, 6, 10, and 12 have been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer as to their subject matter.

Accordingly, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection of claims 1, 3, 6, 10, and 12 is moot and should be withdrawn.

3. The Examiner has rejected claims 5, 7-9, 14, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,554,015 (**Dreiman '015**) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,937,817 (**Schanz '817**), U.S. Patent No. 5,582,271 (**Mielo '271**), and U.S. Patent No. 5,176,506 (**Siebel '506**).

Claims 5, 7-9, 14, and 16 have been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer as to their subject matter.

Accordingly, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection of claims 5, 7-9, 14, and 16 is moot and should be withdrawn.

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4. The Examiner has rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,554,015 (**Dreiman '015**) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,937,817 (**Schanz '817**), U.S. Patent No. 5,582,271 (**Mielo '271**), and U.S. Patent No. 6,264,448 (**Itoh '448**).

Claim 13 has been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer as to its subject matter.

Accordingly, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection of claim 13 is moot and should be withdrawn.

5. The Examiner has objected to claims 4 and 15 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 4 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner also said that "any amendment which places the honeycomb or mesh in dependence from a claim including the lattice limitation will be improper, since these features are not shown in conjunction by the applicant" (Office Action dated June 23, 2009, page 7, paragraph 21).

Claim 4 has been rewritten herein in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claim 3.

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Claim 15 has been rewritten herein in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1. Claim 15, as amended herein, does not incorporate the features of claims 3 and 4.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,
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